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TELEPHONE COMPANY WANTS BETTER RATES

Says Present Rates Are Not Remunerative.

IMPROVED SERVICE IS PROMISED

Railroad Commission Held Hearing Here Thursday on Petition of the Laurens Telephone Company Asking Right to Raise Telephone Rates, To Give Better Service.

Pursuant to a petition to the railroad commission and to a notice of a hearing published in both the Laurens newspapers, the Laurens telephone company, through its president, Mr. W. R. Richey, appeared before the commission here Thursday to ask for the right to raise its present rates in order to place the company on a paying basis and to make it possible for the company to make improvements in the service without entailing a loss in operating expenses. The hearing was held in the court house at three o'clock in the afternoon, John G. Richards, chairman of the commission, and B. L. Caughman, another member of the commission, being present. G. McDuffie Hampton, the remaining commissioner, was absent. About half a dozen citizens of Laurens appeared to listen to the arguments and to place a counter petition with the commissioners opposing the raise of rates. Mr. W. L. Gray represented the counter-petitioners. The petition placed in the hands of the commission by Mr. Gray was signed by about seventy-five alleged patrons of the telephone company, though Mr. Richey contended that there were twelve signers who were not subscribers and patrons of the telephone company and that there were twelve more who would not be affected by the proposed rates, as they were already paying the rate asked for.

The petition of the telephone company sets out, in brief, that the company is capitalized at \$5,000; that it has operating, maintenance, depreciation and office expenses of \$9,403.18 and an income of \$7,899.00 to cover the same, showing a net loss yearly of \$1,504.18. Therefore it prays that the commission allow it to raise its present rates to meet this deficit and to make needed improvements. The improvements contemplated in the petition are the placing of all subscribers on metallic circuits and making of repairs on the switchboard now in use. The rates now in effect and the anticipated raise in each case are as follows:

Business telephones, special lines, metallic circuit, each now \$2.25; the company asks to be allowed to raise this to \$2.50, being 25 cents per month more.

Business telephones, special lines, ground circuits, each \$1.75; to be put on metallic circuit and raised to \$2.50.

Residence telephones, special lines, metallic circuit, each \$2.00; to remain as at present.

Residence telephones, special lines, ground circuit, each \$1.50; to be placed on metallic circuit and raised to \$2.00.

In addition to this the petition provides for business phones, party lines, metallic circuit, at \$2.00 per month, and the same service for residences at \$1.50 per month.

The petition states that by putting all telephones on a metallic circuit hearing over all the lines will be made more distinct; that those patrons now paying for metallic circuit do not get the benefit of the extra expenditure when talking to a patron using the ground circuit as the ground circuit telephone is inferior to the metallic circuit.

The petition does not state on what terms subscribers will be given long distance telephone service, but Mr. Richey stated, when asked about the matter yesterday, that the rate for long distance service is fixed by the Southern Bell Telephone Co. who owns the Toll Lines. If the rates for telephone service are raised then all subscribers will be put on a metallic circuit and will be allowed to talk over the toll lines by paying the usual fee for long distance tolls.

At present all business telephones with a rate of \$2.25 per month have long distance connection and resi-

PARDONING OF BATES CREATED A SENSATION

Former Officer of the Law Who Killed His One-Time Paramour Arrives in Spartanburg, Having Been Released From Penitentiary.

Spartanburg, Dec. 22.—The pardoning of Joe Bates, a murderer, by Gov. Blease today, created a sensation in Spartanburg. Bates arrived in Spartanburg this evening and was taken to the home of his father.

Bates formerly was a policeman and at the time of his crime was a chain gang guard. On Sunday morning, August 29, 1909, he shot and instantly killed Mrs. Docia Bolter, eighteen years old, wife of J. R. Bolter, a farmer living near Fairmont, at the home of W. B. Cox in this city.

At the same time Bates shot and seriously wounded Mamie Cox, eight years old, who was standing nearby with her baby sister in her arms. Mrs. Bolter formerly had been the mistress of Bates, leaving him to marry Bolter.

At Gray Court-Owings School.

On Tuesday, Dec. 30th, at 6.30 there will be an oyster and ice-cream supper at the Gray Court-Owings school. The entertainment is being given by the Rural School Improvement association of that school and is given for the benefit of the school. All are cordially invited to be present.

At Rocky Springs.

The Christmas tree at Rocky Springs has been postponed until Friday, Dec. 26 at 2 p. m. The public is invited.

dence telephones with a rate of \$2.00 have long distance connection. Others have not.

As grounds for its petition, the telephone company cited rates of several cities in the approximate class with Laurens where rates are as high or higher, as follows: Abbeville and Greenwood pay \$2.50 for business phones and \$2.00 for residence phones; Darlington, Florence, Orangeburg, Union and Newberry pay \$3.00 for business phones and \$2.00 for residence phones. Greenwood has the so-called "Common Battery system" of connection where subscribers do not have to ring to get the attention of central or ring off to be disconnected.

The counter-petition offered on behalf of certain patrons by Mr. Gray asked the commission to refuse the request of the telephone company on the grounds that the rates now in force are not too low and that they compare favorably with the rates of other towns having similar service. The rates for telephone service in the town of Clinton was the only one quoted by Mr. Gray, Clinton rates being \$2.50 per month for business phones and \$1.50 for residence phones.

Mr. Richey stated yesterday that the reason the subscribers at Clinton were getting residence phones at \$1.50 per month was that the Bell Telephone Co., when it bought the Clinton exchange agreed to only charge \$1.50 for residence phones. The Bell company made this cheap rate for residence phones in order to get Clinton for a central location.

Outside of the petitions and arguments of Messrs. Richey and Gray, nothing else took place in the meeting and after these gentlemen had vacated the floor, Chairman Richards stated that the commission would take the petition and counter-petition under advisement and reach a decision at as early a date as possible.

It is interesting to note in Article 11, of the telephone petition, that "the Laurens Telephone Company recently applied to the City Council of Laurens of the City of Laurens for a perpetual Franchise with the right to charge two and 50-100 dollars (\$2.50) per month for business phones and two dollars (\$2.00) per month for residence phones, and on October 8th, 1913, the City Council of the City of Laurens, granted unto the Laurens Telephone Company a perpetual Franchise, and by said Franchise gave to the Laurens Telephone Company, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to charge its patrons and subscribers" the same rates asked for in the petition to the railroad commission.

The petition to the railroad commission is dated October 24th and the date for the hearing was asked to be November 22nd. The commission was unable to give the hearing at that time requested and ordered the hearing for December 28th, 1913.

THE RENNO SCHOOL COMES TO FRONT

Takes First Place in Contest for Prize Offered for School Taking Most Interest in General Improvement.

The Renno school, of Jacks township, has been awarded the piano offered by Mr. John F. Williams, of Greenville, for the school in Laurens county making the most general improvements and taking the most interest in school affairs during the past year. The final decision was received Wednesday, after a committee composed of Mr. B. L. Jones, Mrs. R. F. Fleming and Mrs. S. M. Wilkes, had visited this school and the Trinity-Ridge school, between which the final decision had to be made. Other schools had been eliminated from the contest previously although several of them, notably the Hickory Tavern school, had made splendid showings.

The Renno school is a handsome four room brick structure, recently erected. It is situated on a large four acre plot of land given by Mr. "Bille" Bell. Before building was begun, the patrons of the school gathered together and leveled off the school plot so that now it makes a splendid appearance. No special tax nor bonds were voted to build on, but the patrons went down into their pockets and raised the required sum of money. The building is a very pretty one, both on the exterior and interior, being a model for rural communities. Although the school has a much smaller attendance than many others in the county, it is a very progressive one. There were thirty seven children on the school roll last year and the average attendance was thirty six, a splendid showing.

Extra Service at Post Office.

During the unusual rush incident upon Christmas shipping, the postal employees are having all that they can attend to in meeting the demands of the occasion. Although the local post office has been doing a big parcel post business and many packages are being handled, they are yet ahead of the game and are handling with dispatch all packages entrusted to them. Rural route carriers have been pressed into service for city duty and have been assisting in the delivery. Monday night and last night the general delivery window was left open until after the usual hours to take care of the rush and tonight the window will be open again until nine o'clock or as long as the rush lasts. Christmas morning there will be no delivery of mail, but the general delivery windows will be open until 10 o'clock for the receipt and delivery of mail of every description.

J. D. W. WATTS OUT FOR SUPERVISOR

Definitely Stated Yesterday that He Will Be in the Race on Platform of Good Roads.

Mr. John D. W. Watts, the prominent Trinity-Ridge farmer, stated definitely to a representative of The Advertiser yesterday that he would be in the race for county supervisor next summer to succeed Mr. Humbert, who it is expected will also be in the race. Mr. Watts said that he had received considerable encouragement from all sections of the county and that he was confident of making a good race. He said that his principal platform would be good roads.

Another now being spoken of as a prospective candidate for this office is Mr. Wright Sims, of Waterloo township. Mr. B. R. Todd, Mr. Geo. C. Hopkins and Mr. Humbert have already been mentioned in these columns as prospective candidates, all of these with the exception of Mr. Humbert having definitely made their intentions known.

Entertained Court Officers.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Power entertained the officers of the court house Saturday night with one of those old time oyster, o'possum and bird suppers. The table was bountifully supplied with all the good things of the season and the repast was greatly enjoyed. All of the court house officers enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Power.

James B. Clarke Dead.

James B. Clarke, the youngest son of Rev. W. A. Clarke, of this city, died at his home at Wards, Thursday. He had been in ill health for some time as the result of an affection of the throat.

ATROCIOUS DEED NEAR ORANGEBURG

Lonely Widow Attacked by Negro Woman and Seriously Wounded in Many Places.

Orangeburg, Dec. 21.—As results of the most atrocious deeds ever committed in this county, Mrs. Sue C. Cannon, about 45 years old and a widow, is in this city desperately wounded, and Mary Gaillard, a negro woman, accused by Mrs. Cannon of attacking her, was at last reports, surrounded by a posse in a swamp in the vicinity of Vance, near the scene of the assault, which, it is greatly feared, will terminate in a tragedy. In fact, it is said, the doctors attending Mrs. Cannon hold out little hope of her recovery, so serious are the many wounds she received.

Mrs. Cannon was brought to Orangeburg Friday night for surgical and medical attention, after her physician, Dr. W. H. Lawton, of Vance, had taken more than twenty stitches in her wounds. She is now at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. J. Morgan, wife of the well known Atlantic Coast Line conductor on the Peggall branch.

Children Save Mother's Life.

The fiendish attack on Mrs. Cannon, of which Mary Gaillard is accused, was made early Thursday night at Mrs. Cannon's home, on her plantation at Millican's, a small station on the Coast Line, near Vance. Mrs. Cannon was alone at the time, her children, a boy about 11 and a girl a little younger, having gone on a visit to neighbors, and returning just in time to witness part of the attack and prevent the assailant applying a match to their mother's clothes, which she had saturated with kerosene.

Although fearfully injured, Mrs. Cannon has been able to talk about the attack, which she declares was made for the purpose of robbery, and during which a sum of money, for which she had sold some cotton, was taken. She asserts positively that Mary Gaillard was her assailant. It is said that the Gaillard woman has been in the Vance community about two years and bears a bad reputation among both the negroes and white people.

The substance of Mrs. Cannon's version of the difficulty in which she received what may prove fatal injuries, is about as follows:

Victim's Recital.

She declares that while alone in her home about 8 o'clock Thursday night, Mary Gaillard came to her house, but the woman's presence being objectionable Mrs. Cannon ordered her away. The woman stated that she had come to see about a pattern and also spoke about some sewing she probably wished to have Mrs. Cannon do for her.

Then, without giving the slightest intimation of her intentions, Mrs. Cannon says, the woman struck her on the head with a billet of wood, she began slashing her with a razor, also striking her with a bottle. Mrs. Cannon further declares that her assailant grabbed her telling her that she was going to break her arm, which she proceeded to do by twisting the member until the bone was fractured.

The woman then, says Mrs. Cannon, stuck a knife into her ear and twisted it around several times, causing excruciating pain and inflicting one of the most serious of her many wounds. Mrs. Cannon says her clothes were saturated with kerosene by the woman, who was about to apply a match to the oil-soaked garments of her prostrate victim, when the children arrived, finding their mother barely able to speak. The negro woman then ran out of the back door and presumably, going into the Santee River swamp.

ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY.

In the Presbyterian Church by Two of The Church Organizations.

Next Friday evening, Dec. 26th, at 7:30 the Covenanters Company and Miriam Club of the Presbyterian church will give a Christmas entertainment in the main auditorium of the church. The entertainment will consist of special Christmas songs and recitations by the members of the two societies. The young people who will take part have been practicing daily and the entertainment promises to be a most interesting one. The public is most cordially invited to be present. A silver offering will be taken during the evening.

JAMES H. SULLIVAN, YOUNG ATTORNEY MADE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

James H. Sullivan, son of the late Jared D. Sullivan and a well known young attorney, was selected by the state board of education Monday to fill out the unexpired term of Superintendent of Education Geo. L. Pitts who handed in his resignation to take effect the first of the year. Mr. Sullivan's term in office will be for one year, unless he is re-elected during the coming summer campaign, for the four year term.

Mr. Sullivan goes into the office well

equipped to fulfill its duties. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and a member of the bar, having read law under Hon. F. P. McGowan. He has been practicing in this county for several years as a member of the firm of Irby & Sullivan. Mr. W. C. Irby, Jr., being the senior member. Mr. Sullivan taught for one year in the public schools at Brunson, in Hampton county, where he won an enviable reputation as a teacher and disciplinarian.

IS SAFE CRACKER AGAIN IN TOILS?

Spartanburg Police Have a Man They Think Is Safe Cracker Recently Paroled by Blease.

Spartanburg, Dec. 20.—"John Kinney," a prisoner in the county jail, serving thirty days for vagrancy is none other, according to the police, than William McKinley, a noted safe robber, who was one of the 103 convicts liberated by Gov. Blease last month in honor of Thanksgiving. Moreover, the police say, they have evidence that McKinley attempted to blow a safe within three weeks after he was freed from the penitentiary and will bring him to trial for the alleged crime as soon as he completes his vagrancy sentence.

A warrant has been sworn out against McKinley charging him with the attempted safe robbery, and Magistrate Robert J. Gantt will hold a preliminary investigation Monday afternoon, when it is said much additional evidence will be disclosed.

The man was found camping in woods near Spartanburg Junction by Robert E. Miller, a special agent of the Southern Railway. He had a sack of coal which he admitted having taken from the railway's coal yard and was arrested and convicted before Magistrate Gantt.

On being taken to the county jail Kinney, or McKinley, was hailed as an old acquaintance by another prisoner, Elmore Wright, who said the new arrival was in the penitentiary at the same time that he (Wright) was serving a life sentence there for murder.

Wright, like McKinley, was paroled by Gov. Blease, but after he was liberated shot another man, and he, too, is back in prison again.

Two days before McKinley, alias Kinney was arrested, an attempt was made to blow open the safe in the general store of Renard Frey, at Fair Forest, S. C., about eight miles from Spartanburg. A charge of nitroglycerine was exploded but the safe resisted the assault. The explosion was heard by a negro in the neighborhood, but the robber was not seen.

The Button Clew.

The next morning a button, with a little tuft of cloth attached, was found under the window of Frey's store. It is believed to have been torn from the robber's clothing as he entered the building and was preserved as of possible value as evidence.

When Kinney was identified by Wright as McKinley, the safe robber, officers examined McKinley's clothing. They found a button missing, and also discovered, it is alleged, that the button found in Frey's store was identically the same as the remaining buttons on McKinley's clothes and that the cloth was the same as the little tuft attached to the button referred to.

McKinley's reputation as a professional safe robber and the evidence of the button, taken in connection with the fact that he was arrested as a vagrant within a couple of miles of Frey's store, constitute the case against him, as at present developed.

Postoffice inspectors have been investigating in the belief that McKinley may have had accomplices and that the gang may have been responsible for other robberies in this section. Two men in the Spartanburg county jail, charged with robbing the safe in the postoffice at Saluda, N. C., are not believed, however, to have had any connection with McKinley. They claim to be "beating" their way to Charleston.

McKinley, who at first was very volatile in protesting against his arrest

as a vagrant and made an able plea to Magistrate Gantt for his discharge, has since become as silent as a clam. The officers say he angrily broke his silence, however, when they informed him that Postoffice Inspector H. T. Gregory, the terror of "jeggmen," was coming here to look him over. The prisoner cursed, it is said, and exclaimed that he did not want to see Gregory.

Summary of His Record.

Here is McKinley's record so far as it is known here:

He entered a store in Montmorenci, Aiken county, S. C., in 1901, and robbed the postoffice, which was located in the store. Postoffice Inspector H. T. Gregory got on the trail of the gang of which McKinley was believed to be a member and on January 6, 1903, arrested McKinley in Columbia. The prisoner was tried in April in the United States court at Charleston and sentenced to the federal penitentiary at Atlanta for five years.

After his release from the Atlanta prison he was taken in hand by the South Carolina authorities and at Aiken in July, 1907, largely on the testimony of Postoffice Inspector Gregory, was convicted of burglary and larceny and sentenced to the State penitentiary for 15 years. He had served six years when paroled by Gov. Blease.

On being taken to the governor's office McKinley said with much earnestness, "I reported that he intended to go up criminal ways and lead an honest life."

Admits Identity.

Spartanburg, Dec. 22.—After a preliminary investigation held in the court house this afternoon William McKinley, alias John Kinney, alias "Dayton Scotty," a noted safe robber, liberated on parole from the State penitentiary by Gov. Blease Thanksgiving day, was held by Magistrate Robert J. Gantt to await the action of the grand jury on charges of burglary and attempted safe robbery.

McKinley admitted that he was the convict paroled by Gov. Blease Thanksgiving. He said after leaving the penitentiary he went to Georgia, but his feet became sore from walking and when arrested here he was working his way to Baltimore to enter a hospital.

COURT WILL REVIEW T. U. VAUGHN'S CASE

Grounds Stated Upon Which He Appealed to U. S. Supreme Court, May Be Months Before Decision is Rendered.

Washington, Dec. 22.—T. U. Vaughn, formerly in charge of the Odd Fellows' Home for Children at Greenville, S. C., appealed to the supreme court today to set aside his conviction of assault upon a 14-year-old girl at the home. The court will review the case.

Vaughn, who was sentenced to be electrocuted, claims that this sentence cannot be imposed upon him because electrocution was authorized by a law enacted after he had been indicted. He also claims that the trial judge erred in charging the jury that he confessed to the technical charge. Vaughn's attorney claims that he merely confessed to great moral wrong.

It may be several months before a decision is rendered.

Mr. James Davis Appointed.

Mr. James Davis, for a number of years salesman at Davis, Roper Co., has been appointed city mail carrier, and will begin his new duties the first of the year. The postoffice department only recently added another carrier for the city making three in all,